

## The Alexandria Gazette

SATURDAY EVENING, AUG. 23, 1862.

## GENERAL NEWS.

The canal trade is now quite dull, navigation being somewhat obstructed by low water.—The drought in the upper country is very great, and the corn crop has suffered severely, while the Potomac is too low to admit of an adequate supply of water in the canal at present.

On Wednesday last the steamer Belvidere going down the bay, bound to Fortress Monroe, collided when off the mouth of the Rappahannock river, with the steamer Elm City, loaded with troops, Gen. Sykes, and about 800 regulars coming up. No lives were lost, but the boats were so much damaged as that they must cease running for the time being for repairs.—The Elm City is injured in the bow, and the Belvidere in her wheels.

The government is anxious to secure the prize steamers at Philadelphia for transports, especially the Bermuda and Lodona—both iron vessels, and recently built. An offer has been made by the agents of the government to take them at their appraised value; but this course does not, it is understood, meet the approval of Judge Cadwalader, who is of the opinion that there must be a public sale.

Camden, N. J., has furnished her quota of troops under both requisitions, and therefore escapes the draft.

In the Gratiot street prison, St. Louis, are 739 persons confined on government account.—They are guarded by 75 men.

Gen. Corcoran reached New York yesterday. His reception is said to have been the most magnificent ovation ever accorded to any one individual. The formal reception by the city authorities took place at Castle Garden, the mayor making an address of welcome, to which Gen. Corcoran replied. As the procession passed the New England Rooms, a salute was fired from a four pounder placed on the roof. The General's headquarters are at the St. Nicholas.

The United States iron-clad frigate Ironsides left Philadelphia on her first cruise on Thursday. She sailed under sealed orders, and it is understood that her mission is to be a very important one. She has a full frigate's crew of picked men.

A dinner was given to General Wilcox on Thursday evening at the Athenæum Club, Fifth avenue, New York.

A dispatch from St. Louis says:—"The sickness on the fleet is exceedingly great. On the Cincinnati ninety-three were on the sick list, and take the fleet through, half their crews are down. Should this matter not mend, the gunboats will not be able to co-operate very energetically with the land forces in the contemplated movement upon Vicksburg. In the camps back of the bluffs much sickness prevails, which is attributed to the use of the spring water there abounding, said to be impregnated with copperas."

A man who was recently released on taking the oath of allegiance was on Thursday arrested while in the act of passing into Virginia with a large number of letters and maps of Maryland and Virginia. He was returned to his former prison quarters.

A letter to the St. Louis Republican, dated Helena, August 14, says: "The land forces here now, exclusive of Steele's division at Clarendon, cannot be less than 30,000. The forces which Gen. Curtis led through his harrassing campaign are recuperated to a great degree.—That a movement of this army will soon take place seems to be the general opinion. The fact that twenty five steamers are here, and retained in government employ, indicates a movement down the river. Gen. Curtis has returned, and his return has increased the expectation of active movements soon."

The New York Commercial of yesterday afternoon says it has information that the junction of Generals McClellan's, Pope's and Burnside's forces has been effected, it is believed at Aquia Creek. The same paper says that reliable advices from the James river state that "the Confederates have occupied Harrison's Landing, and that their pickets extend as far as the Chickahominy. A large portion of the gunboat flotilla with the flag-ship was above Harrison's Landing, and would probably give the Confederates a taste of their quality."

Host of office seekers are thronging Washington, loudly contesting for the assessorships, collectorships of internal revenue.

Wm. H. Hurlbut, whose detention by the Confederates caused no little stir nearly a year ago, has escaped from Richmond and reached Washington in safety.

The Washington correspondent of the N. Y. World says:—"It is openly asserted by the emancipationists, that the long political struggle is drawing to a close, and that the President, overborne by the pressure brought upon him, will issue a decree giving freedom to all slaves—and this before the 15th of September. Messrs. Sumner, Chandler & Co., have been urging him, night and day, to do this thing."

It is said that two Rhode Island regiments, whose three months' term is about to expire, will return home. The great bounties that are given recruits in the North creates a desire among soldiers to return home, to enlist again under better auspices as to pay.

Since the speech of President Lincoln to the delegation of blacks, it is understood that his popularity with them is on the wane.

The New York World says:—"The retreat of Gen. Pope will bring untold horrors upon one class of unfortunate people; we allude to those who were either persuaded, frightened, or forced into taking the oath of allegiance to the United States. The Rebels will, of course wreak all their vengeance upon these weak brethren. It ought, however, to be a lesson to our generals never to exact a oath of this kind until there is no longer any danger of a recovery of the territory by the rebel troops. Treatment of this kind only serves to make the rule of our government contemptible as well as detestable in all the disputed territory."

The Boston Post says:—"Mr. Dana G. Agnew, of Boston, has concluded arrangements with Mr. F. F. Wells, who was chosen by the U. S. Government to raise the vessels sunk in Hampton Roads, numbering fifteen, to take an active part in the diving department of the work. Among the vessels to be raised are the Congress, Cumberland, Raritan, and Merimac. Several of the most experienced divers in the United States will be employed on this expedition."

The Panama Star says:—"The government cannon consisting of four large brass pieces, were sold on Wednesday night last at private sales to Senor Bergamotte, and shipped next day to the United States. We understand that the sale was effected by the Southern party at eleven cents per pound."

The enrolling officers, the commissioners of enrollment and draft and examining surgeons have been appointed by the Governor of Maryland, for Baltimore and most of the counties of the State. Dr. Wm. M. Kemp has been appointed in the place of Dr. Thomas Owens, for the wards of Baltimore city.

The latest reports of the harvest in France are less gloomy than those which reached us some weeks since. The present prospect is that the yield will be a fair one.

A number of Irish officers and citizens have obtained permission from Governor Andrew, of Mass., to raise a new Irish regiment for nine months' service. Recruiting will be at once commenced.

Brigadier General Joseph B. Plummer, of the U. S. A., died recently near Corinth. He commanded a brigade in the corps of General Rosecrans. He had ridden from his own headquarters to those of his superior General, and not finding General Rosecrans in his tent, remained there to await his arrival. While there he was visited by death. General Plummer had been for many years in the service.—He was a graduate of West Point.

Rear Admiral Read, of the U. S. Navy, died at Philadelphia yesterday, where he was stationed. He was on the retired list.

The work on the fortifications at Memphis is progressing by the aid of the contrabands. Some of the guns captured at Island Ten are to be used on them.

There is considerable solicitude for the safety of Eastern Kentucky. Picketon is in the hands of Humphrey Marshall's advance. Gen. Marshall is himself said to be moving with a heavy force to the scene of his former defeat. There is said to be no doubt but that the Confederates intend to take possession of the Big Sandy region, drive the Federal force out, and carry the war to the Ohio border.

A Washington dispatch to the New York Tribune states that some time since President Lincoln prepared a Proclamation of Emancipation, in accordance with the law of Congress to take effect on the first of December next, should the war continue; that he submitted it to his Cabinet two or three times; that all the Cabinet were in favor of it except Mr. Seward and Mr. Blair; these two persistently and resolutely opposed it on all occasions, and hence it has never seen the light.

The total number of volunteers arrived in Washington since the 15th instant, to five o'clock last evening, including recruits for old regiments, was 19,860.

Helena, Ark., is to be fortified by the U. S. troops as a base of operations. Siege guns have already arrived, and the health of our army there is good.

It is said that there is no unusual excitement in Washington.

Commander W. D. Porter, U. S. N., has been promoted to a Commodore.

Mr. Richard Simpson, of Mt. Gilead, Loudoun County, Va., was shot and instantly killed by some of Capt. Mean's Federal cavalry a few days ago.